Vol. IX. Numb. 40.

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*On the Cock-match at* Cirenceſter, *where the Cock called Dr.* Burgeſs *killed that called Dr.* Sacheverell. *On the Horrid Lewd Practices of thoſe High-Church Zealots during that Cock-match. The Method by which they procured their Addreſſes. On the Story of the Mareſchal de* Villars's *preſenting the Pretender to the Prince of* Heſſe. *A Brief Summary of the Import of thoſe Seditious Addreſſes.*

From **Wedneſday,** May 31, to **Saturday,** June 3. 1710.

*Countrym.* I Muſt beg a little Diſcourſe with you now, Maſter, about a late Cock-match that happen'd at *Cirenceſter*, and the Methods taken to procure the late Addreſs there.

*Obſ.* With all my Heart, *Roger*; but you muſt tell me the Particulars.

*Countrym.* An Honeſt Gentleman has ſent us them as follows. The Cock-match was already mention'd in one of the Publick Prints; but the Gentleman has ſent it us with abundance of more Circumſtances. The Cock-match was attended by ſuch a Crew of Wretched Debauch'd Fellows, that the like perhaps was never ſeen in one Place for Swearing, Drinking, and Whoring, to that Degree as he believes none but *Sacheverellites* would have been guilty of; ſo that they were the Abhorrence of all Honeſt Men who ſaw it, or heard of it. They continually toſs'd *Sacheverell*'s Health; and if any oppoſs'd it they cry'd, *Damn him, he's a Fanatick, a Falſe Brother*, and what not. The *Sunday* before the Battle they reſorted to the Cock-pit, where they fought their Cocks all the Time of Divine Service; and after that was over ſtrouled about the Town, *got together ſome Poor Silly Girls, and debauch'd them in the Porch of the Church, and on the Tomb-ſtones of the Deceas'd.* The Reverend Miniſter of the Town made an Excellent Sermon the *Sunday* before and after the Match againſt thoſe Abominable Practices; but the Cockers, who were at Church, took ſo little Notice of it, that they went immediately to a Lewd Houſe, where Ill Women were kept for them.

*Obſ.* Yet theſe are the Men, *Roger*, who make ſuch a Hideous Outcry againſt Atheiſm, Profaneneſs, Immorality, and bad Principles, and would have the World believe that they are the only True Sons of the Church. To me, *Roger*, they appear to be of the ſame Stamp with thoſe Poor, Bigotted, and Profane, Papiſts, who think the Kiſs of a Crucifix, or the Bowing to an Image, a ſufficient Atonement for the moſt Enormous Crimes they can commit. In like manner 'twould ſeem that thoſe Men think a Pretence of Zeal for the Church, and crying up of *Sacheverell*, is a ſufficient Propitiation for their Horrid Debaucheries. But what does the Gentleman ſay of the Cock-match. *Roger?*

*Countrym.* You have heard before, Maſter, that one of the Cocks which fought the odd Battle for a great Sum, was call'd Dr. *Sacheverell*, and the other Dr. *Burgeſs*; and that it was a very hard Battle, wherein Dr. *Sacheverell* had the Advantage for a long Time, but at laſt Dr. *Burgeſs* both routed and killed him; which mortified the Faction extreamly, when they found their own Fooliſh *Omen* turn againſt them.

*Obſ.* They had very good Reaſon to look down, *Roger*; for it was a Juſt Rebuke to their Madneſs, though the Thing in itſelf be of no Manner of Conſideration, otherwiſe than as they made it Conſiderable by laying ſo much Streſs upon it. But what, are there no Magiſtrates, or Officers of Juſtice, in the Town, that ſuch Horrid Impieties and Profanations of the Lord's Day were ſuffer'd to paſs unpuniſh'd? I am glad to hear that the Reverend and Honeſt Miniſter of the Town diſcharg'd himſelf as became his Function; but was there no Body elſe that put their Hand to rebuke thoſe Perſons who declar'd their Sin as *Sodom?*

*Countrym.* The Gentleman ſays, Maſter, there are many Honeſt Men in the Town, and even of thoſe call'd *High-fliers*, who abominate ſuch Practices: But the Officers of the Town being put in by a Great Man, carry the Sway, and for certain Reaſons are remiſs in their Duty; for tho' they ought to ſearch all Publick-Houſes on the Sabbath-day to prevent ſuch Debauches, and to puniſh the Tranſgreſſors according to Law, they neglect it, and took no Notice of thoſe Horrid Impieties; ſo that on the *Sunday* after the Cock-match the Cockers or Gameſters ſung and drank all the Afternoon at Two Inns in the Town, and call'd for Cards and Dice. Therefore, Maſter, I think my ſelf oblig'd to pray that God would deliver the Church of *England* from ſuch Supporters, and ſuch Falſe Pretenders to her Communion.

*Obſ.* All Honeſt Men will ſay *Amen* to your Prayer, *Roger*; for they are not only a Diſgrace to the Church of *England*, but to the Chriſtian Name, and indeed to any Civilized Nation. The very Heathens would bluſh to profane their Places of Worſhip at ſuch a Rate, except where the Principles of their Religion induce them to do it. Such Men as theſe would turn the Church to a Temple of *Iſis*, or a downright Bawdy-Houſe, and her Worſhip to the *Eleuſina Sacra*, the moſt Profane Ceremonies of the Laſcivious Heathen. To commit ſuch Villanies in the Porch of the Church, and on the Tombs of the Deceaſed, is to bid Defiance to all that's Civil or Sacred, and to outbrave Death and Judgment. In the mean Time 'tis a very Fair Commentary upon *Sacheverell*'s Text, and may help us to underſtand the Meaning of his Railing at ſuch a Rate in his *Derby* Sermon, *&c.* againſt the Societies for the Reformation of Manners, where he calls them the Devil's Privy Council, and compares them to the Devil himſelf. Nor are we to wonder at it; for ſince the far greateſt Part of the Debauchees of the Nation have liſted themſelves under his Banner, it was his Intereſt to give the worſt Character he could of thoſe who ſet themſelves, in Oppoſition to the Practices of the Lewd and Debauch'd Herd, who are his Admirers. But pray what does the Gentleman ſay about the Methods the Faction took to procure their Addreſs, *Roger?*

*Countrym.*

*Countrym.* He ſays, Maſter, that Money is lodg'd in the Hands of their Confidents to diſpoſe of it where they think they can make Intereſt, as they did for Electing Members of Parliament, which was proved in Parliament againſt them. And were it not for that Method of Bribing, and the Threats of the Town-Officers, who are in their Intereſt, by which they compel many to do what is Contrary to their Inclinations, the Sober People of the Town would overtop them in every Thing: But theſe Fellows handed about their Addreſſes from Houſe to Houſe, and beſides the Methods above-mentioned, having got one Little Man's Hand to it, who has the Reputation of a Man of Subſtance, they made Uſe of that as an Argument to delude poor Unthinking People, telling them they needed not to fear, for ſuch a Man's Hand was to it; but many of the People who were thus trick'd to ſign it have ſince repented of it. Thus they gain'd a great many Hands, and make a Noiſe as if the whole Country were on their Side, and approved their Sham Addreſſes; whereas it's evident that the True Freinds of her Majeſty and the Conſtitution do by far out-number the *Sacheverellites*, and their Brethren, the *Jacobites*, in that Country.

*Obſ.* I make no doubt but 'tis the like in moſt Parts of the Kingdom, *Roger*; in the mean Time 'tis not much for the Honour of thoſe *Cirenceſter* Addreſſers that ſome of their Leaders are thoſe who inſulted the Memory of the late K. *William*, and burnt him in Effigie with Dr. *Burgeſs*, at the Time of their Seditious Rejoycings for the Deliverance of their Tool Dr. *Sacheverell*, as they call it, while they hugged the Pretender in Effigie, as they would do him in Perſon, did not Her Majeſty's Glorious Arms, our Good Laws, and the Providence of God, ſtand in their Way. They are rejoiced, no doubt, to hear that he is in the *French* Army with ſo many of his *Iriſh* Cut-Throats about him; it comforted their Hearts to hear that he is ſo much eſteem'd by the *French* Generals, and that *M. Villars* was proud of ſhewing him to the Prince of *Heſſe*; which if the Story be true, *Roger*, is no Proof of the Mareſchal's Civility or good Breeding, but ſhews him to be a Perſon who knows nothing of the Rules of Honour and Decency, he would not otherwiſe have offer'd any ſuch Thing to that Gallant Prince, who had the Civility to grant him an Interview upon his own Invitation. He could not but know the Prince of *Heſſe*'s Zeal, and that of his Family, for the Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of *Europe*; and that, if there had been no other Exception againſt the Pretender, his having uſurp'd the Titles of Her Majeſty of *Great Britain*, his attempt to have bereft Her of Her Royal Life and Dignity, and his being bred up a Nurſling of *France*, and a Tool to ſupport Popery and Arbitrary Power in *Europe*, muſt needs make him a very unacceptable Sight to that Confederate General; but it ſeems *France* has loſt her good Breeding as well as her Honeſty. However, the Time may come when ſhe ſhall pay dear for this Piece of Inſolence, which is ſo manifeſt an Affront to Her Majeſty of *Great Britain*, and to the whole Confederacy, ſince that Perſon's uſurping Her Majeſty's Titles is one of the Foundations of the preſent War, and expreſs'd as ſuch in Her Majeſty's Declaration.

*Countrym.* The *French* are encourag'd to that Inſolence, Maſter, by the Seditious Addreſſes of our Faction at Home; they look upon them as ſo many Declarations for the Pretenders, and not without Reaſon; for as I take it the Import of 'em in a few Words is thus, They beſeech Her Majeſty to turn out Her Generals and Miniſters, and to diſſolve Her Loyal Houſe of Commons, that they may have the Opportunity to try if they can chuſe another that will declare the Revolution a Rebellion, repeal the Declaration of Right, and Her Majeſty's Parliamentary Title, reſtore the Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance as 'twas preach'd up in the late Reigns, repeal the Act for attainting the Pretender, and thoſe for ſettling the Succeſſion in the Proteſtant Line, as being contrary to the Hereditary Right, diſſolve the Union of the Two Nations, and repeal the Act of Toleration, that the Proteſtant Subjects may cut one anothers Throats, and pave the Way for a Popiſh Succeſſor and *French* Slavery, as the Party did by their Addreſſes of Abhorrence againſt our Honeſt Parliaments in the Reign of King *Charles* II. This, Maſter, I will undertake with my Country Logick to prove againſt all the Varſity Men in *England* to be the Natural Conſequence of the Addreſſes of the Faction; and if this be not Treaſon and Sedition in the Higheſt Degrees, let any Man judge. Perhaps the Landing of the *French* in *Scotland*, ſo much talk'd of at preſent, may ſet the Matter in a Clearer Sight, if it be true; but more of this in our next, Maſter.


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